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June 1, 1993

FCC MAIL ROOM

Children's TV MM Docket #93-48
Secretary
FCC Room 222
1919 M St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY


Dear Sir:

Although some shows are targeted for children, virtually ALL of TV is children's TV. From the time school's out in mid-afternoon until about 10:00PM, children of all ages are exposed to every active channel which is available at their residence. Unfortunately, this means that they are exposed to continual violence (some rather depraved) and sexual innuendo of every degree. Thirty years ago or more, if adults wanted to hear humor containing profanities and sexual innuendo, they went out to a club which children were barred from entering. They enjoyed adult humor in a restricted locale, and society was better off that way. Today's sitcoms are mostly tasteless expressions of juvenile (in the worst sense) humor, and the adventure shows try to exceed each other in finding the newest limit of brutality. In the same way, "talk shows" are also children's TV when scheduled during late afternoon when school's out. Few of these contain topics suitable for young children.

It certainly is possible to write comedy, drama, and adventure shows which don't rely on the degrading aspects of human life. But it is somewhat harder to write, and it won't sell as well to the masses. Although some judgment is still called for, I find good children's fare on the Discovery channel, The Learning channel, the Arts & Entertainment channel, and the PBS channel. For the preschoolers, the Mr. Rogers self-esteem show is good. Sesame Street is primarily kiddie entertainment and does a very poor job of educating.

In general, television today should be considered in the same category as alcohol. It is a dangerous commodity in its present form, and should be restricted to those old enough and with the maturity to handle it reasonably responsibly.

Sincerely,


Robert J. Dugan
Box 22387
Lexington, KY 40522

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